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Confederados - Part II

Lead: Horrified at the prospect of defeat, emancipated slaves, economic devastation, and Yankee occupation, in the years following the Civil War some Southerners emigrated to Mexico, to the Caribbean, and to South America.

Tag: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: While most leaders such Robert E. Lee counseled gracious acceptance of defeat and accommodation to the New South, others were bitter and determined to leave. They were animated by the

sentiments expressed in a song popular among whites in the South in the years following the war, a verse of which reads:

**I hates the Yankee nation and
everything they do.**

**I hates the Declaration of
Independence, too;**

**I hates the "glorious Union, "
'Tis dripping with our blood,**

**I hates their striped banner, I fit
it all I could.**

Even before Lee's surrender, colonization societies had been formed to look for places of refuge. At first Mexico seemed a likely destination. Its closeness meant that the immigrants could keep watch on events in the

United States. and perhaps return if the situation improved. Also, Emperor Maximilian was delighted to give the Southern veterans a home. They could help his government which was threatened at the time by revolutionaries, but in 1867 the Emperor was deposed. His execution meant that another place would have to be found.

Perhaps the largest group of émigrés settled in southern Brazil. Land was rich and suitable for growing cotton, slaves were cheap, and the government of Emperor Dom Pedro welcomed the Southerners with open arms, temporary accommodations, transportation to their new homes in the wilderness, and

government land subsidies. From 1867 to 1868, large groups began to make their way southward, usually departing from New Orleans and landing in Rio de Janeiro.

At home this southward emigration was almost universally denounced by Southern editorialists and leaders such as General Lee, but the prospect of a "Yankeetocracy" was too much for these die hards and more than a few made their way to the growing Confederate colonies near Sao Paulo, Campinas and the largest at Americana on the banks of the Tieté River. Next time: Confederacy and the Brazilian melting pot.

**At the University of Richmond, this
is Dan Roberts.**

Resources

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Harter, Eugene C. *The Lost Colony of the Confederacy*. Jackson, MS: University of Mississippi Press, 1985.

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